

## CLAIMS

1. A backlight characterized by being formed by combining a plurality of backlight units, with respect to a lighting surface for  
5 illuminating a back of a video display unit formed by a single panel,

2. The backlight as described in claim1, characterized in that said backlight units are arranged with said lighting surface thereof being not overlapped one another.

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3. The backlight as described in claim1, characterized in that:  
each of said backlight units comprises a light source; a light reflecting unit which reflects a light emitted from said light source into a predetermined direction; and a light guide plate which directs said light  
15 incident through said light reflecting unit to go out from said lighting surface.

4. The backlight as described in claim3, characterized in that:  
said backlight units are configured so that said light reflecting  
20 units arranged at one end of said light guide plate are formed to be combined in alternate directions.

5. The backlight as described in claim3, characterized in that:  
said backlight units are configured so that said light reflecting  
25 units arranged at one end of said light guide plate are formed to be combined in same directions.

6. The backlight as described in claim 3, characterized in that:  
said light reflecting unit arrange at one end of said light guide  
30 plate and another end of said light guide plate are configured so that said light reflecting unit and said another end of said light guide plate are

combined with one another without a gap, when said backlight units of the same shape are combined in same directions.

7. The backlight as described in claim 1, characterized by being  
5 formed by combining a plurality of backlight units of different shapes.

8. A drive apparatus for a backlight formed by combining a plurality of backlight units, said drive apparatus characterized by comprising:  
a drive unit which is provided for respective backlight unit and  
10 performs drive control of respective backlight unit, and  
a drive control unit which performs drive control of said drive units.

9. The drive apparatus for the backlight as described in claim 8,  
15 characterized in that said respective drive units and said drive control unit are connected in a daisy chain.

10. The drive apparatus for the backlight as described in claim 8, characterized in that:  
20 said drive unit comprises a light quantity detector which detects light quantity of said light source, and a light quantity control unit which controls the light quantity of said light source to a predetermined level based on the result of said detected light quantity of said light quantity detector.

25 11. The drive control apparatus for the backlight as described in claim 10, characterized in that a plurality of said light quantity detectors are provided.

30 12. The drive control apparatus for the backlight as described in claim 8, characterized in that said drive unit is provided with a

temperature sensor which detects a temperature of said light source.

13. The drive control apparatus for the backlight as described in claim 10, characterized in that:

5       said light quantity control unit controls light quantity of said light source to a predetermined level by varying a duty ratio of a drive voltage supplied to said light source based on the result of said detected light quantity of said light quantity detector.

10   14. The drive control apparatus for the backlight as described in claim 8, characterized in that:

      said drive control unit generates and transmits an offset data which offsets the light quantity at said drive unit, based on a light quantity data transmitted from said respective drive units.

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15. The drive control apparatus for the backlight as described in claim 14, characterized in that:

      said drive unit variably controls voltage level of a light source drive voltage supplied to said light source so that light quantity of said  
20   light source is set to be a predetermined level, based on said offset data transmitted from said drive control unit.

16. The drive control apparatus for the backlight as described in claim 14, characterized in that:

25       said drive unit variably controls current flowing through said light source so that light quantity of said light source is set to be a predetermined level, based on said offset data transmitted from said drive control unit.

30   17. A display apparatus characterized by comprising:  
      a backlight formed by combining a plurality of backlight units,

a video display unit which is arranged on the lighting side of said backlight and formed by one or a plurality of video display panels, and

a diffusion board arranged apart from said backlight and between said backlight and said video display unit.

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18. The display apparatus as described in claim 17, characterized in that a transparent plate is provided between said backlight and said diffusion board.